



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of**  
**Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
N.H. Department of Safety, John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner  
33 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03305  
1-800-852-3792  
[newsletters@hsem.nh.gov](mailto:newsletters@hsem.nh.gov)

September 2007



Commissioner of Safety John J. Barthelmes and Edward M. Murdough of the Department of Education at a September 11<sup>th</sup> news conference at N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management on safety improvements in the state since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

**STATE MORE SECURE IN YEARS SINCE SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> ATTACKS** – New Hampshire responded to the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, by improving cooperation and coordination among state agencies and with local and federal government and the private sector. That was one of the messages of a news conference held at the State Operations and Communication Center by Safety Commissioner John J. Barthelmes, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Christopher M. Pope and Edward M. Murdough of the Department of Education.

The news conference was held on the sixth anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. The officials discussed communications interoperability, improved sharing of information at all levels and the construction of the new emergency operations facility. It was the first formal media event at the building. Attending the news conference were reporters from WMUR-TV, the Associated Press, WGIR radio and N.H. Public Radio.

#### **GOVERNOR LYNCH DECLARES PREPAREDNESS MONTH IN N.H. –**

Governor Lynch issued a proclamation on September 11<sup>th</sup> declaring Preparedness Month in New Hampshire. The U.S Department of Homeland Security declared September National Preparedness Month. The governor noted that potential terrorist attacks continue to be a threat to the state and the nation, but natural disasters remain a danger as well. New Hampshire experienced three devastating floods in less than two years which cost seven lives and millions of dollars in damage. Every part of the state was affected in some way by one or more of those three storms between October 2005 and April 2007.

The governor urged people to protect themselves by developing family emergency plans and storing emergency supplies so they can be on their own until help arrives.

#### **SCHOOL EMERGENCY LAW REQUIRES PLANS AND EXERCISES –**

One of the topics at the September 11<sup>th</sup> news conference was the new school emergency planning law that went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It requires all public and non-public schools in New Hampshire to have building-specific, all-hazards emergency plans in place within two years. Once a plan is completed an exercise must be conducted within one year to test it. Most New Hampshire schools already have such plans. HSEM's Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning for Schools, or CEMPS program, has been assisting in developing their plans for nearly 15 years. Local first responders should be involved in developing school emergency plans.

School districts or first responders may obtain assistance or information on school emergency planning by calling Greg Champlin at HSEM, at 223-3629, or Ed Murdough at the Department of Education at 271-2037. Information is also available on-line at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/bem/>.

#### **VY SHUTS DOWN DURING VALVE TESTING –**

The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant returned to full power operation on September 15<sup>th</sup> after a problem with hydraulic fluid flow to a valve linkage in the plant's secondary cooling system. The plant had been operating at about 60 percent power since the collapse of a cooling tower on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The hydraulic fluid problem triggered a scram on August 30<sup>th</sup> that automatically shut the plant down. Engineers corrected that problem and the plant returned to reduced power operations two days later, and then full power by working around the collapsed cooling tower. Repairs to that structure are continuing.

Both problems occurred in the non-nuclear portion of the plant. Vermont Yankee reduced power after the cooling tower collapsed to keep water being returned to the Connecticut River within temperature specifications.

**FUNCTIONAL NEEDS GUIDANCE POSTED** – State guidance to assist people with functional needs has been released and posted to the HSEM website. The document is intended to support the state Emergency Operations Plan and is aimed at state and local emergency managers, state and local government agencies and officials, functional needs population stakeholders, private sector organizations and businesses involved in planning for the care of people who may need special assistance during disasters. That could include people with disabilities, non-English speakers, people who are culturally or geographically isolated and others. The document may be downloaded in .pdf format from <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/bem/>.

**FEMA OFFERS DISASTER RECOVERY COURSE** – FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md., is offering a course in disaster recovery for local officials October 22<sup>nd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. The four-day course, *Recovery from Disaster: The Local Government Role*, will cover the recovery process roles and responsibilities at the local government level to facilitate the development of a disaster recovery plan. It is intended for local elected officials, public works directors, building inspectors and other officials involved in local disaster recovery efforts. There is no cost for tuition or room and board during the course. In addition, financial assistance with transportation costs to EMI may be available. For more information contact Capt. Bob Pragoff at the N.H. Fire Academy at 1-800-371-4503.

**NEW OPS ASSISTANT CHIEF** – Diane L. Becker has been named assistant chief of operations for N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Most people in emergency management knew her as the executive director of the Greater Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross. She served with the Red Cross for 30 years before retiring at the end of June. Welcome aboard Diane!